

## Health Care Personnel Shortage Legislative Task Force

by Leonard Kargacin

In response to the state's critical shortage of health care workers, Representatives Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (Chair, House Higher Education Committee), Eileen Cody (Chair, House Health Care Committee), Steve Conway (Chair, House Commerce and Labor Committee), and Shay Schual-Berke (Vice-Chair House Health Care Committee) requested that the State's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board convene a Task Force. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on July 2, 2002 with a final report due back to the Legislature by December 2002.

Legislators gave the task force the following duties: to identify ways to increase the capacity of health professions in all areas, especially high demand areas; review training programs which have well-designed career ladders; look at ways to improve recruitment and retention of students; increase the diversity of health professions; engage families transitioning from welfare to work; identify methods to encourage unemployed workers to seek employment in the health care field; and identify ways that state regulations, requirements and statutes can be modified in a positive fashion to address the health care labor shortage.

**Dana Duzan**, a member of the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council, has been selected to represent the Allied Health Professions on the Task Force. Other Task Force members include:

Brian Ebersole, Chair (President, Bates Technical Colleges); Bill Gray, Co-Chair (Dean, WSU – Spokane); Dana Duzan representing Allied Health; Anne Tan Piazza representing the Washington State Nurses Association; Marc Gaspard and John Fricke representing the Higher Education Coordinating Board; Rich Nafziger representing the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Troy Hutson representing the Washington State Hospital Association; Teresa Stone representing the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; Linda Lake representing the State Board of Health; Brian McAlpin representing the Washington State Medical Association; Jeff Mero representing the Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts; John Nagelmann representing Group Health Cooperative; Ellen O'Brien Saunders representing the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; Mary Selecky representing the Department of Health; Diane Sosne representing the Service Employees International Union (Allied Health); Evelyn Torkelson representing Rural Health; Karen Tynes representing Long-Term Care; Diane Zahn representing the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (Allied Health).

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### Practice Guidelines

The following practice guidelines have been developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council. They can be accessed at the following website:  
[www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/LQA\\_Home.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/LQA_Home.htm)

Anemia	Point-of-Care Testing
ANA	PSA
Bleeding Disorders	Renal Disease
Chlamydia	STD
Diabetes	Thyroid
Hepatitis	Tuberculosis
HIV	Urinalysis
Lipid Screening	Wellness

# Bioterrorism Information Resources

by Leonard Kargacin

Questions continue to arise regarding sources of information on bioterrorism. Bioterrorism information is available at the Department of Health website at [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov). The following article contains excerpts from a January 18, 2002 press release that outlines bioterrorism resources available at the CDC.

The redesigned Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Website offers both new and updated bioterrorism resources for health professionals and the public.

The site at [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov) addresses the need for up-to-date and accurate information on health threats arising from exposure to biological, chemical, or radiological agents. The redesigned site, which focuses on Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response, is the official federal site for medical, laboratory, and public health professionals to reference when providing information to the public and for updates on protocols related to health threats such as anthrax.

CDC redesigned the site in response to overwhelming demand from the public and professionals for credible information during the anthrax crisis. In October 2001, CDC experienced more than a 100 percent increase in

traffic to its main website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), which links directly to [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov). CDC was the most visited federal government website in the nation in October, registering more than 9.1 million unique visits. "As a result of recent events, we find that not only health professionals, but people from all walks of life want information on health threats directly from our agency's website," said former CDC Director Jeffrey P. Koplan, MD, MPH. "This new site makes the most-requested information on public health preparedness and emergency response easier to find and update quickly."

The new site offers easy-to-use categories requested by key audiences, including clinicians. CDC worked with the Communication Technologies Branch (CTB) at the National Cancer Institute to test the site for usability with a sample of potential users in Rockville, MD. CTB also conducted a review of the website using its Research-Based Web Design and Usability Guidelines (<http://usability.gov/guidelines>; <http://usability.gov>). CDC will continue to add information to the site as part of its increased role in responding to health threats that involve biological, chemical, or radiological agents. CDC's other information resources include a hotline: 1-888-246-2675 (English) and 1-888-246-2857 (Spanish) available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

CDC protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

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**Website addresses:**

**DOH home page:** <http://www.doh.wa.gov>

**LQA home page:** <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LQA.htm>

**PHL home page:**  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>

## 9th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 11, 2002

Seattle Marriott Sea-Tac Hotel

Seattle, Washington

**Mark your calendars today!**

# Waived Test Training Modules Developed for Laboratories

by Shelley Lankford

Based on results of the pilot studies of Colorado, Iowa, Office of the Inspector General, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), training modules for Waived Tests are currently being developed. The studies indicated that the Certificate of Waiver (COW) and Provider Performed Microscopic Procedures (PPMP) laboratories were having difficulty following manufacturer's product instructions in addition to having test performance-related problems. The major recommendation from these pilot studies was to provide basic education in following manufacturer's instructions and good laboratory practice. Consequently, training materials and courses were developed through a collaborative project between CMS and the Washington State Department of Health, Public Health Laboratories Training Program.

The first module, Waived Test Training Module 1: Urine Dipstick, was completed and piloted in Seattle at the First Annual Exhibition on Waived Testing on June 21, 2002. Over 60 participants representing physicians offices, nursing home facilities, hospitals, public/community health clinics, pharmacies, and other entities attended the training. Post evaluations of the training indicated that overall the course was excellent and over 90% would recommend this training to others. Additional classes are being offered this fall. Please see the information below if you would like to register for one of the courses.

Other Waived Test Training Modules for tests such as Strep A, prothrombin time, glucose, etc. are currently being developed. Waived Test Training Module 2: Strep A will tentatively be offered in the Winter of 2003. A **"Train the Trainer"** course using the Waived Test Training Module 1: Urine Dipstick is scheduled for October 2002. This course is designed for those responsible for teaching nontraditional testing personnel performing waived testing. **If you are interested in registering for the "Train the Trainer" course, please call Shelley Lankford at (206) 361-2810.**

**Waived Testing Classes offered in Shoreline and Spokane:** Waived Test Training Module 1: Urine Dipstick is a 3 hour-course designed for the personnel performing very simple testing. The course will focus on reading/interpreting manufacturers' instructions, the parts of a package insert one should pay attention to, understanding good laboratory practice, and performance of the urine dipstick procedure. A training manual has been developed especially for this class and will be given to those who attend the course. The training manual contains easy guides to urine dipstick testing, hands-on exercises, listing of all waived tests with their appropriate CPT codes, explanation of good laboratory practice, section on definitions, quality control, and much more. A total of 0.3 continuing education units or 3 contact hours will be awarded for this course. The tuition for these classes is \$35.00. To register for one of these classes, complete the registration form below.

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## COW Training Series Module 1: *Improving Patient Care: Urine Testing in the Physician Office Laboratory*

### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MTS Number-\_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Class date preference:** (check one) ☐ **Saturday, October 5, 2002 Shoreline**

☐ **Saturday, October 12, 2002 Spokane**

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Complete the registration form and mail to the Department of Health, PHL Training Program **1610 NE 150th Street \* PO Box 550501\* Shoreline, WA 98155-9701** or **FAX to: (206) 361-2904**. A confirmation packet will be sent to you by mail. The packet will contain your registration confirmation, payment instructions and a map to the course location. Please do not send money with your registration form.

**Registration Deadline: Friday, September 20, 2002**

## Waived Testing Helpful Hints

### Apply the following 10 good laboratory practices when performing waived testing:

- Have the correct request and collect a good specimen;
- Label and store specimen properly;
- Check kit expiration date;
- Know your product insert;
- Follow procedure exactly;
- Run control often;
- Repeat test if there is a problem;
- Accurately record results;
- Sign and date results;
- Notify the healthcare provider of any positive tests.

**NOTE:** Check this spot in future editions of Elaborations for more helpful hints with waived testing.

### Calendar of Events

#### PHL Training Classes:

Basic Blood Cell Morphology

September 11      Shoreline

September 12      Shoreline

Waived Tests Training Module 1: Urine Dipstick

October 5      Shoreline

October 12      Spokane

Urine Sediments

October 9      Shoreline

October 10      Shoreline

#### Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium

October 16 - 19      Portland

#### 9th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 11      Seattle

Contact information for the events listed above can be found on page 2. The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to ELABORATIONS at the address on page 2. Information must be received at least one month before the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion.